

Finance Committee Minutes

March 8th 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM. Present were Mr. Mark Carson, Mrs. Marilyn Fracasso, Mr. John Pshenishny, Mrs. Sandra Walker, Mr. Robert Miller and Mrs. Prudence Spaulding. Mr. Steven Klein joined the group by telephone, moved by Mr. Miller 1st, Mrs. Walker 2nd passed unanimously. Guests included Ms. Mari Enoch town Administrator, Ms. Michele Shalaby selectman, and Mrs. Marsha Pshenishny.

The minutes for March 1st were accepted as read, Mr. Pshenishny 1st, Mr. Miller 2nd passed unanimously.

Ms. Enoch came to tell the Committee that the selectmen planned to have a budget meeting (tomorrow) Friday March 9th at 8:05AM. The Committee then began to discuss salaries, beginning with the police salaries. The question in the fore front was whether the Committee wanted to support another full time policeman. Discussion focused upon the cost. The town would need to decide to support the policeman who was interested in attending the police academy receiving his pay for the 18 weeks while a part time policeman would be covering the shifts that he would normally be filling. And that the cost in his salary alone would be \$12,240 was a thought provoking puzzle. Mrs. Walker questioned if we could not get a policemen already with the training needed. Chief Frank had stated to the Committee that he considered that a full time trained officer was needed to work in his department providing coverage.

There was some question about how much money was brought into the town through speeding tickets. Mrs. Fracasso was able to access this information and reported that the Motor Vehicles Department had returned the following amounts for the following months;- August 2017, \$955; September 2017, \$590; October 2017, \$590 ;November 2017, \$410; December 2017, \$755; January 2018, 4455; and February 2018, \$665. This has yielded about \$600 per month. Perhaps an added policeman would be able to generate more speeding tickets, although the chief has stated that added force was needed for break-ins, accidents and domestic trouble calls. The question then arose that if the town paid in part for his education what guarantee would there be that the policeman would remain even though there would be an incentive to reimburse his educational fee (which he would pay) of \$3,000 after three years of service. Ms. Enoch added that the policeman who is being considered for this was an excellent officer and was in the process of buying land in New Marlborough and planning to settle down in the town. Police Salaries remained upon hold with the hope of learning what the selectmen might decide.

The Committee then decided to consider a COLA Of 2%. An informational sheet given to the Committee by Ms. Enoch stated that the COLA would cost the town about \$13,278. Mr. Carson make a motion to accept the 2% COLA with Mrs. Spaulding 2nd it was passed with Mrs. Fracasso recusing. The group then began reviewing budget requests.

Transfer Station Salaries [70519.00] (\$20,588) now requesting {\$26,275}. This included in this budget a 2% increase for the man running the transfer station. However the “helper” is being paid \$12.87 per hour. Mr. Friedman, who is in charge of the transfer station, stated that this salary was not in line with other men performing similar tasks at neighboring transfer stations. Mr. Friedman made the request that the salary for this worker be raised to \$14.15 per hour. He also added extra hours for the helper position to cover the times when seniors (who were working under the Senior Tax Work-off Program) were no longer able to do this. Three seniors, who this year have worked at the station, will have been able to work about 312 hours. This left the other worker about 415 hours. The Committee decided to increase the helper’s wages to \$13.27 per hour and thus the budget request that included the man running the transfer station and his paid helper (for 415 hours) would result in {\$21,491.13}. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mrs. Fracasso 2nd passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Expenses [10147.44] (\$3,300) level funded {\$3,300} Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed with Mrs. Fracasso recusing.

Treasurer’s Software and Support [10147.89] (\$ 3,864) now requesting {\$3,975}. This account pays for two contract services, namely Harpers and Accela. Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Miller 2nd passed with Mrs. Fracasso recusing.

Tax Title (Treasurer) [10149.00] (\$6,000) level funded {\$6,000} Mr. Miller 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed with Mrs. Fracasso recusing.

Tax Collector’s Salary [10147.02] (\$ 25,663) with COLA {\$ 26,176.26}, Mr. Miller 1st, Mr. Pshenishny 2nd passed with Mrs. Fracasso recusing.

Town Administrator [10129.00] (\$34,334) with COLA {\$35,021}, Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Miller 2nd with Mrs. Fracasso recuing

.Account Officer’s Salary [10135.02] (\$18,069) with COLA {\$18,431}, Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Klein 2nd passed with Mrs. Fracasso recusing.

Administrator’s Secretary [10131.00] (\$ 29,132) with COLA {\$ 29,715}, Mr. Miller 1st, Mrs. Walker 2nd passed with Mrs. Fracasso recusing.

Town Clerk’s Salary [10161.00] (\$31,392) with COLA {\$32,020}, Mrs. Spaulding 1st Mr. Miller 2nd passed with Mrs. Fracasso recusing.

Prudence Spaulding

March 9th and 10th 2018

Clerical [10192.02] (\$ 8,636) with COLA {\$8809}, Mr. Miller 1st, Mrs. Walker 2nd passed with Mrs. Fracasso recusing.

Town Hall Custodian [10192.50 (\$ 8,160) with COLA {\$8,342}, Mr. Pshenishny 1st, Mr. Miller 2nd passed with Mrs. Fracasso recusing.

Town Hall Renovations [10194.00] this account if fully paid up.

Library Expenses [50610.01] (\$45,048) now requesting {\$45,915}, Mrs. Spaulding 1st, Mr. Carson 2nd passed unanimously.

Building Inspector Salary [60241.04] (\$20,831) put on hold because he is planning to cut his hours and perhaps train an intern to eventually take his job.

Emergency Management Salary [60291.01] (\$ 4,330) level funded {\$4,330} Mr. Pshenishny 1st, Mr. Miller 2nd passed with Mrs. Fracasso recusing.

Animal Control Officer (Stipend) [60293.00] (\$3711) level funded,{\$3711}. Mrs. Walker had asked Mrs. Spaulding for a job description. Mrs. Spaulding gave her a job description that the state had sent to her, it was however for a large city in the eastern part of the state. While Mrs. Walker pointed this out, Mrs. Spaulding stated that it would give her some idea of what an Animal Control Officer does. Mrs. Spaulding also included a job description for the job of Animal Inspector that also came from a large city in the eastern part of the state; although Mrs. Spaulding had provided the committee with a job description that she uses for New Marlborough's Animal Inspector's duties. Mr. Pshenishny 1st, Mr. Miller 2nd passed with Mrs. Fracasso and Mrs. Spaulding recusing.

Animal Inspector Compensation [60293.00] (\$675) now requesting {\$2,000} Mrs. Spaulding had provided the committee with an extensive study of this job and what it entails. The Animal Inspector in New Marlborough is responsible for all the rabies connected work as well as the animals that inhabit 51 barns. With the sizable job should the present animal inspector retire it is very unlikely that another could be found for the present salary. It is for this reason that there was a request for the increase in compensation. A comparison of neighboring Animal Inspectors' was included in the study which supported this premise. Mr. Carson made a motion to provide the compensation of {\$1,500} with Mr. Miller 2nd. Mrs. Walker stated that she would support the motion but wanted it stated that her support was based upon the quality of work that the present Animal Inspector provided. The motion was passed with Mrs. Fracasso and Mrs. Spaulding recusing.

Assessor's Clerks Salary [10141.02] (\$18410) with COLA {\$18,778} now requesting {\$20,000}. Mrs. Pshenishny asked if she could speak. She stated that she had worked for many years for

the town and was now receiving less than workers that were just beginning their jobs for the town. Mrs. Spaulding asked if her salary included the Longevity money. To which she stated that it did not. Mr. Carson stated that the hiring etc. of staff was in the selectmen's domain, and the budget was put on hold and referred back to them.

Mrs. Spaulding asked Mrs. Shalaby when the Committee could expect the capital budget. She stated that it was in the process of being worked on. Mr. Klein stated that he would try to bring back information at the next Finance Committee's meeting.

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place at 6:00PM on Thursday March 15th. Mr. Klein made a motion to adjourn at 8:35PM, Mr. Miller 2nd passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding, secretary.